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**Below-cloud aerosol  
removal**

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# Estimated variability of below-cloud aerosol removal by rainfall for observed aerosol size distributions

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## Abstract

Below-cloud scavenging (BCS) coefficients of aerosols by rainfall are estimated for reported aerosol size distributions measured during field experiments in various environments. The method employed is based on explicit calculations of the efficiency of collision between a raindrop and aerosol particles. Results show that BCS coefficient increases with rainfall rate and has a significant dependence on aerosol size distribution parameters. Thus, BCS is important for very small particles (with diameters less than  $0.01\ \mu\text{m}$ ) and for coarse particles (with diameters larger than  $2\ \mu\text{m}$ ). For rainfall rate  $R \sim 1\ \text{mm hr}^{-1}$ , the 0.5-folding time of these particles is of the order of one hour. It is shown that BCS is negligible for aerosol particles in the range  $[0.1\text{--}1]\ \mu\text{m}$  if compared with in-cloud scavenging rates for low and moderate rainfall rates ( $R \sim 0.1 - 10\ \text{mm hr}^{-1}$ ). The results indicate that a boundary layer aerosol size distribution with coarse mode is drastically affected very shortly after rain starts (in a fraction of one hour) and consequently, the below-cloud aerosol size distribution becomes dominated by particles in the accumulation mode.

## 1. Introduction

The scavenging of aerosol particles (AP) by dry deposition and precipitation represent important processes by which a balance is maintained between the sources and sinks of airborne particles. The wet removal by precipitation is by far the most efficient atmospheric aerosol sink and the detailed mechanism of this process involves microphysical interactions between AP and hydrometeors (Pruppacher and Klett, 1997). For practical reasons, the APs wet removal is typically represented in current models by scavenging coefficients in aerosol mass continuity equations. These scavenging coefficients are determined to be a function of bulk quantities available from measurements, such as the precipitation rate at the ground. While significant experimental and theoretical work has been dedicated to estimate the scavenging coefficients under a variety of

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conditions (Wang and Pruppacher, 1977; Grover et al., 1977; Wang et al., 1978; Slinn, 1983), recent reports show that the representation of aerosol removal processes in current aerosol transport models remains a source of uncertainty (Rasch et al., 2000). In addition, the understanding of wet removal processes remains crucial in local and regional pollution studies (Dana and Hales, 1975; Radke et al., 1980; Scott, 1982; Chang, 1986; Jylha, 1991, 1999; Sparmacher et al., 1993; Okita et al., 1996; Mircea et al., 2000).

An AP can be removed from atmosphere by (1) nucleation scavenging or by (2) impaction scavenging. In nucleation scavenging, APs serve as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) or ice nuclei (IN) in the initial stage of cloud formation and these processes are controlled by the requirements for heterogeneous nucleation in the atmosphere such as supersaturation. In contrast, the impaction scavenging depends on the net action of various forces influencing the relative motion of APs and hydrometeors. Nucleation scavenging dominates the impaction scavenging at the beginning of cloud formation and experimental and model results show that this process can deplete the original aerosol population in air up to 75–90% (Junge, 1963; Flossmann et al., 1985, 1987; Ten Brink et al., 1987; Schumann, 1991). A fraction of APs that are not scavenged by nucleation might become incorporated into cloud and precipitation hydrometeors through impaction scavenging. Similar mechanisms act during in-cloud scavenging (ICS) and below-cloud scavenging (BCS). These mechanisms are: convective Brownian diffusion, interception, inertial impaction, thermophoresis, diffusionphoresis, airflow turbulence and electrostatic attraction (a literature review on these processes is given by Pruppacher and Klett, 1997). One significant difference between the ICS and BCS processes is that the in-cloud interstitial aerosol grows typically into cloud droplet (with a diameter of about 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ), which makes the collection by falling raindrops very efficient. While the BCS is less efficient than the ICS, there are several environmental conditions when this process is important, especially in cases when mechanical generated large particles are present near the Earth's surface as will be illustrated in this paper.

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Major work has been done in the last decades to characterize the BCS based on the concept of efficiency of collision between a falling raindrop and aerosol particles. Earlier work by Greenfield (1957) recognized the role of Brownian motion in increasing efficiency of collision between the raindrop and the very small aerosol particles (with diameters  $d_p < 0.01 \mu\text{m}$ ). Similarly, large particles (with diameters  $d_p > 2 \mu\text{m}$ ) tend to have high collision efficiency because of their inertia. The particles with diameters in the range 0.01 and  $2 \mu\text{m}$  appeared to have a very small efficiency of collision and this size range is named “scavenging gap”. Further work by Slinn and Hales (1971) showed that the thermophoresis could enhance the BCS of aerosols with diameters in the range  $[0.01\text{--}1] \mu\text{m}$ . Following experimental work and model results by Grover et al. (1977), Wang et al. (1978), Byrne and Jennings (1993), showed that the presence of charge on aerosol particles and raindrops can substantially increase the BCS of aerosols with sizes in the “scavenging gap”. More recent model estimations by Tinsley et al. (1999) indicate that BCS can be increased significantly for aerosols resulted from evaporation of charged cloud drops. Given the complexity of BCS processes, there is no simple general theory to account for all aerosol sizes and for all atmospheric conditions. Particularly, the variability of phoretic forces, electric charge and turbulence tend to affect the BCS of accumulation mode particles and this variability is reflected in the reported experimental and model BCS coefficient values.

While many studies were dedicated to determine the efficiency of collision between raindrops and aerosols of specific particle sizes, there are very few applications of the BCS model to observed ambient aerosol and raindrop size distributions. Earlier calculations by Dana and Hales (1975) indicated that the BCS coefficient for a polydisperse aerosol is generally larger than it would be for a monodisperse aerosol with size equal to some typically used distribution parameter. These studies suggested a need for extensive application of the BCS model to observed atmospheric aerosol size distributions. The purpose of this study is to analyze the dependence of below-cloud aerosol mass scavenging on observed aerosol size distribution characteristics and on rainfall rate. First, we describe the basic concepts used to determine the mass scavenging co-

efficient suitable for a mass continuity equation (both for models that describe bin size distribution evolution and for total mass concentration evolution). Then we calculate the mass scavenging coefficient for a variety of aerosol size distributions determined from reported field experimental data with a significant number of samples. Calculations are made for a variety of rainfall rates for cases with coarse mode and for cases dominated by submicron particles. Calculations are compared with experimental results and the implications of BCS on the aerosol 0.5-folding time and on the changes of aerosol size distribution in the BL are discussed.

## 2. Method

The method used here to evaluate the BCS coefficients is based on the concept of efficiency of collision between an AP and a raindrop (Slinn, 1983; Pruppacher and Klett, 1997; Seinfeld and Pandis, 1998). When a raindrop of diameter  $D_p$  falls below the cloud, it creates an airflow with streamlines that deviates from the drop surface. Some of the aerosol particles present in the swept out volume of the raindrop collide with the raindrop and are collected. The total rate of collection of mass of all aerosol particles of diameter  $d_p$  is

$$n_M(d_p) d d_p \int_0^\infty \frac{\pi}{4} D^2 U_t(D_p) E(D_p, d_p) n_D(D_p) d D_p \quad (1)$$

where:  $n_M(d_p)$  is the mass size distribution of aerosol,  $U_t(D_p)$  is the raindrop terminal velocity,  $n_D(D_p)$  is the raindrop size distribution, and  $E(D_p, d_p)$  is the collection efficiency, which is assumed to be equal with the collision efficiency (Pruppacher and Klett, 1997). The collection efficiency is defined as the ratio of aerosol mass collected by a drop and the aerosol mass in the swept out volume. The raindrop size distribution is described by an empirical Marshall and Palmer fit,  $n_D(D_p) = N_{D0} \exp(-cD_p)$ , where  $N_{D0} = 8 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ mm}^{-1}$ , and  $c = 4.1 R^{-0.21} \text{ mm}^{-1}$ , where  $R$  is the rainfall rate

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in  $\text{mm hr}^{-1}$  (Marshall and Palmer, 1948). For practical calculations, the raindrop size distribution,  $n_D(D_p)$  is linked to rainfall rate,  $R$ , by

$$R = \frac{\pi}{6} \int_0^\infty D_p^3 U_t(D_p) n_D(D_p) dD_p \quad (2)$$

The BCS rate of aerosol of diameter  $d_p$  can be written as

$$\frac{dn_M(d_p)}{dt} = -L(d_p)n_M(d_p) \quad (3)$$

$$L(d_p) = \int_0^\infty \frac{\pi}{4} D_p^2 U_t(D_p) E(D_p, d_p) n_D(D_p) dD_p \quad (4)$$

where  $L(d_p)$  is the scavenging coefficient of particles of diameter  $d_p$ .

The raindrop-aerosol collision efficiency  $E(D_p, d_p)$  has been evaluated both theoretically and experimentally in a series of previous papers (as reviewed by Pruppacher and Klett, 1997, Chapter 17). For practical considerations, the available  $E$  data are fitted into an expression that covers a wide range of aerosol particle sizes. Based on Slinn (1993) we use the expression of  $E$  that is summarized by Seinfeld and Pandis (1998) (Eq. 20.56). Figure 1a illustrates the role of various terms that contribute to the collision efficiency,  $E$ , between a raindrop of diameter  $D_p = 0.1 \text{ mm}$  and an aerosol particle of diameter  $d_p$ : the Brownian diffusion dominates  $E$  for particles with diameters  $d_p < 0.01 \mu\text{m}$ , while the interception and impaction become important for larger particles with  $d_p > 1 \mu\text{m}$ . The effect of raindrop size on the collision efficiency is illustrated in Fig. 1b. Thus, small aerosol particles are collected more efficient by smaller raindrops than by large raindrops. For coarse aerosol particles, due to important inertial term, there are fewer differences in  $E$  due to raindrop sizes. The variation of the scavenging coefficient of particles of diameter  $d_p$ ,  $L(d_p)$ , given by Eq. (4) is illustrated in Fig. 2a as a function of particle size and rainfall rate,  $R$ . For a given aerosol size, we note a variation of about 2 orders of magnitude as  $R$  varies between 0.1 and 100

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mm hr<sup>-1</sup>, which is a range that covers most of the observed precipitation rates.  $L(d_p)$  is suitable for description of mass evolution in each bin centered on diameter  $d_p$ .

The total mass scavenging rate is given by

$$\frac{dM_a}{dt} = - \int_0^\infty \frac{\pi}{6} d_p^3 \rho_p L(d_p) n(d_p) dd_p = -L_m M_a \quad (5)$$

5 where,  $M_a$  is the total aerosol mass concentration,  $\rho_p$  is the aerosol density. The mean mass scavenging coefficient,  $L_m$ , is defined by

$$L_m = \frac{\int_0^\infty d_p^3 L(d_p) n(d_p) dd_p}{\int_0^\infty d_p^3 n(d_p) dd_p} \quad (6)$$

where the number size distribution of aerosol,  $n(d_p)$  is typically represented as a sum of three log-normal modes

$$10 \quad n(d_p) = \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{N_i}{\sqrt{2\pi} d_p \log(\sigma_i)} \exp \left[ -\frac{\log^2(d_p/d_{gi})}{2 \log^2(\sigma_i)} \right] \quad (7)$$

where  $N_i$  is the number concentration in the mode  $i$ ,  $d_{gi}$  is the geometric mean diameter of the mode  $i$ , and  $\sigma_i$  is the geometric standard deviation of the mode  $i$  (generally, from field experiments,  $i = 1$  is the Aitken mode,  $i = 2$  is the accumulation mode and  $i = 3$  is the coarse mode). Figure 2b shows the mean mass scavenging coefficient,  $L_m$ , versus the aerosol geometric mean diameter ( $d_g$ ) for several rainfall intensities (calculations are shown for one log-normal mode of aerosol size distribution with  $\sigma_g = 2$ ). This plot illustrates that for a single mode,  $L_m$  is dependent on the mean geometric diameter while preserving a similar dependence on  $R$  as  $L(d_p)$ . Furthermore, it has been shown that increasing  $\sigma_g$ , the collision efficiency,  $E$ , tends to increase and the “scavenging gap” becomes partially filled (Dana and Hales, 1975; Seinfeld and Pandis, 1998).

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### 3. Results

The model described above is applied to selected available data of aerosol size distributions measured in various environments. It has been recognized that detailed in situ measurements of the full aerosol size spectrum as a function of time and space are still insufficient in order to characterize the variability of aerosol properties on a global scale (Jaenicke, 1993). Furthermore, most of the experimental data of BCS coefficients are limited to laboratory studies and to a subset of aerosol sizes, in the submicron range due to the work related to wet deposition of radionuclides (Sparma-cher et al., 1993). In this work we use detailed size distribution measurements taken over sufficient time intervals in recent field experiments. The results are presented in two parts: (1) calculated BCS coefficients for the full spectrum of aerosol size distribution, in cases where three log-normal modes were found to describe the size distribution: Aitken, accumulation, and coarse particles; (2) calculated BCS coefficient for measured size distributions with predominant submicron particles.

#### 3.1. Below-cloud scavenging of coarse particles

Several cases of aerosol size distribution with coarse mode are used in this section and the log-normal size distribution parameters are summarized in Table 1. Jaenicke (1993) reported aerosol size distributions for several environments: polar, free troposphere, marine, remote continental, desert dust storm, rural, and urban. For each type of aerosol, the size distribution is represented as a sum of three log-normal distributions (Fig. 3a). The calculated mean mass scavenging coefficient  $L_m$  is shown in Fig. 3b. For a given aerosol type we note a significant variability of  $L_m$  with rainfall rate,  $R$ . Also, for a fixed value of  $R$ , there is variability in  $L_m$  based on aerosol type. The BCS for polydisperse aerosols was noticed in early studies (Dana and Hales, 1975) and the relatively high values of  $L_m$  are caused by the presence of coarse mode as will become clear later in this paper. For comparison, we plotted the ICS coefficient based on the method described by Scott (1992). We note that BCS is smaller than the ICS

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for all conditions considered here. The ICS coefficient is calculated assuming that aerosol particles that enter into cloud are activated as CCN and grow to form a narrow cloud drop size distribution with a typical diameter of  $\sim 10 \mu\text{m}$ . Falling raindrop in cloud collects some of these cloud drops. The physics of collection is similar with the one described above for BCS mechanism but it is dominated by inertial impaction (Scott selected a value  $E = 0.65$  for the collection efficiency between raindrops and cloud drops). Based on these calculations, the aerosol that exhibits coarse mode (where  $E$  is high due to interception and impaction terms) will be very efficiently removed by BCS. We further illustrate this aspect using several recent field cases where the coarse mode is important.

One instance where coarse mode might be important is the marine boundary layer (MBL) under significant wind conditions near the ocean surface. The ocean is a source of sea salt particles to the atmosphere, and such particles are created during bursting of air bubbles due to breaking waves and spume and splash droplets. These particles are in small number but they can dominate the mass size distribution and can be important in chemical reactions in the marine BL (O'Dowd et al., 1997; Bates et al., 1998). Breaking waves (at wind,  $w \sim 3\text{--}4 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ ) produce bubbles that can generate about 10 jet drops with sizes around  $1\text{--}2 \mu\text{m}$  up to  $10 \mu\text{m}$  and hundreds of film drops in the submicron range. For  $w$  larger than  $7\text{--}11 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ , the tearing of wave crests produces ultra large spume sea-salt particles (O'Dowd et al., 1997). Using a combination of optical particles counters (Particle Measuring Systems ASAP-X, FSSP, and OAP), O'Dowd et al. (1997) compiled a data set of size distribution measurements that cover the range  $0.05$  to  $150 \mu\text{m}$  radius and wind speeds up to  $17 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . The log normal fit for  $w = 17 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  is shown in Fig. 4a and the calculated  $L_m$  is depicted in Fig. 4b. The marine aerosol size distribution from Jaenicke (1993) is shown for comparison. Generally, the data from O'Dowd et al. (1997) shows a coarse mode that is more intense than the one from Jaenicke data. This is due to the intense wind at the surface during the experiment, while the data from Jaenicke (1993) is representative for surface wind in the range  $5.5\text{--}7.9 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ .

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Similar results are obtained using aerosol size distributions reported by Bates et al. (1998). The measurements of marine aerosol were taken aboard of the NOAA Ship Discoverer during ACE 1 (Intensive 15 November to 14 December 1995) in South Pacific (in the region 40–50° S, 135–155° E). The number size distribution between 5 and 600 nm was measured with two differential mobility particle sizers (DMPS). The number distribution between 0.6 and 9.6  $\mu\text{m}$  was measured with an aerodynamic particle sizer (APS). The size distribution is shown in Fig. 4c and the corresponding BCS coefficient,  $L_m$ , in Fig. 4d. Results are compared with data from Jaenicke (1993). We note a smaller coarse mode, due in large to smaller wind speeds, but generally, this set of data is similar with the one recorded by O'Dowd et al. (1997). The results illustrated here suggest that under significant wind near the ocean surface, the BCS is dominated by the removal of coarse sea-salt aerosols.

Another example that illustrates the role of coarse particles in BCS is provided by a dust layer measurement over the North Atlantic Ocean during ACE2, near Tenerife, Canary Islands in July 1997 (de Reus et al., 2000). Five instruments were used to derive the aerosol size distribution of particles with diameters ranging from 0.006 to 31  $\mu\text{m}$  in a dust layer sampled between 2.5 and 5.5 km altitude. Results are shown in Fig. 5a for size distribution and Fig. 5b for BCS coefficient for data corresponding to a 2.7 km altitude. We note that the measured coarse mode is less intense than the one described by Jaenicke (1993). This can be caused by the fact that data used in our calculation refers to dust measured above the BL while Jaenicke data is more representative for the lower BL. Overall, the results presented for these cases are comparable with calculations based on Jaenicke (1993) data and comparable with ICS coefficient calculations, which indicates that marine and dust coarse particles are efficiently removed by BCS.

### 3.2. Below-cloud scavenging of predominantly submicron particles

Many submicron aerosol size distributions were reported for marine and continental locations (Van Dingenen et al., 1995; Covert et al., 1996; Jensen et al., 1996; Raes et

al., 1997; Bates et al., 1998; Brechtel et al., 1998; Weingartner et al., 1999). Particularly, in marine environment under calm wind conditions, the Aitken and accumulation modes are dominant and significant effort has been dedicated to describe the accumulation mode, which is responsible for direct and indirect radiative effects (Charlson et al., 1992; Twomey, 1991; IPCC, 1996). To describe the complete aerosol size spectrum, the measurements must involve a set of several instruments that simultaneously measure different size ranges. Most of the data used in this section were limited to sub-micron sampling, generally for environmental conditions in which these modes were dominant and the mechanical aerosol production was small (Table 2). These cases are used to illustrate that BCS of submicron particles is generally less efficient, while it can still be an important process for removal of pollution especially for very intense precipitation conditions.

During July 1994, the submicron aerosol size distribution was measured on Tenerife, Canary Islands by Raes et al. (1997). The measurements were taken using a differential mobility particle sizer (TSI DMPS model 3932) operating in the size range between 16 and 620 nm. During these measurements in North Atlantic the production of aerosol particles by sea spray was neglected because the average wind speed at Tenerife was about  $5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . Four cases based on average MBL aerosol size distribution properties are shown in our analysis: the mixed cases refer descending air mass from free troposphere (FT) into the MBL. The clean cases refer to aerosol that persisted in the MBL without significant perturbation from the FT or from continental sources (Fig. 6a). For detailed description of conditions that formed these aerosol size distributions see Raes et al. (1997). In this case, the observed aerosol size distribution is dominated by Aitken and accumulation modes. The calculated BCS coefficient  $L_m$  is shown in Fig. 6b for two cases and are compared with experimental data of scavenging coefficient for aerosols with diameters  $d_p = 0.23 \mu\text{m}$  and  $d_p = 2.16 \mu\text{m}$  based on Sparmacher et al. (1993). We note that  $L_m$  for submicron particles from these measurements is in good agreement with measurements for aerosols in comparable size range.

Aerosol measurements were made in mid-Pacific along longitude  $140^\circ \text{ W}$  from  $55^\circ \text{ N}$

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to 70° S for 90 days in 1992 and 1993 (Covert et al., 1996). The number size distribution of the particles was measured with a differential mobility particle sizer (DMPS) covering the range 20 to 600 nm. The cases shown here are representative for observed meteorological, aerosol sources and aging processes (Fig. 7a). Cases 22APR93 and 5DEC93 refer to tropical, bimodal distribution, 7APR93 refers to midlatitude, open distribution and 11APR93 refers to tropical semi open distribution. For details of the impact of air masses on aerosol size distributions, see Covert et al. (1996). Calculated  $L_m$  is shown for cases 7APR 93 and 11APR93 (the other two cases are close to 7APR93) (Fig. 7b). Results are compared with experimental scavenging coefficients for diameters  $d_p = 0.23 \mu\text{m}$  and  $d_p = 2.16 \mu\text{m}$  based on measurements by Sparmacher et al. (1993). We note that the submicron bimodal distributions are in good agreement with experimental data for the submicron diameter ( $d_p = 0.23 \mu\text{m}$ ).

An example of submicron aerosol measured at a continental site is shown here based on measurements of aerosol size distribution at an alpine site (Jungfraujoch; 3580 m asl, Switzerland) from March 1997 to May 1998 (Weingartner et al., 1999). Measurements were taken using a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS, TSI 3934), comprising a DMA (TSI 3071) and CNC (TSI 3022), monitoring the size distribution of particles mobility diameters  $d_p = 18\text{--}750$  nm. The cases are grouped based on the liquid water content (LWC) values, as a measure of the cloudiness conditions. Figure 8a shows the measured size distributions. Calculated  $L_m$  are shown in Fig. 8b for cases of clear sky and very dense cloudiness and compared with the experimental scavenging coefficients for diameters  $d_p = 0.23 \mu\text{m}$  and  $d_p = 2.16 \mu\text{m}$  based on Sparmacher et al. (1993). Note that calculated  $L_m$  values compare well with the experimental data for small particles ( $d_p = 0.23 \mu\text{m}$ ).

Similar results are obtained using submicron data from other field experiments (Van Dingenen et al., 1995; Jensen et al., 1996; Brechtel et al., 1998). Calculated  $L_m$  for submicron data, particularly for accumulation mode, shows that BCS is not effective, except for very intense rainfall intensities. In contrast, the presence of coarse mode shows that  $L_m$  has high values and therefore large particles can be removed fast even

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for moderate precipitation rates ( $R \sim 1 \text{ mm hr}^{-1}$ ). For a persistent precipitation regime, large particles can be removed shortly after the rain starts and BL remains populated with accumulation particles that are less removed by BCS. However, nucleation scavenging followed by ICS can be more effective in removal of the particles from this part of the size spectrum. This study shows the importance of BCS for large particles in several cases: windy conditions over MBL when coarse particles dominate the aerosol mass, dust layer events with potential large particles, and possible pollution events with large and fine particles. These cases tend to be more variable and transitory than the accumulation mode.

For a given aerosol distribution case, the BCS coefficient can be expressed as  $L_m = aR^b$  where  $L_m$  is in units of  $\text{hr}^{-1}$ ,  $R$  is the rainfall rate (in units of  $\text{mm hr}^{-1}$ ) and  $a$  and  $b$  are coefficients that depend on aerosol characteristics. Table 3 summarizes the results of this work and several reports in recent literature. We note that for cases with coarse particles,  $a$  is in the interval  $[0.24\text{--}0.88]$  and  $b = 0.7$ , while for the ICS,  $a = 1.26$  and  $b = 0.78$ . For the cases dominated by submicron particles,  $a$  is in the interval  $[0.1\text{--}1.13] \times 10^{-3}$ , except for the case of Jylha (1999) who assumed a constant value of  $E = 0.02$  for particles with diameters in the range  $[0.3\text{--}0.9] \mu\text{m}$ . The values of  $b$  are in the interval  $[0.59\text{--}0.94]$ . We note that generally, the results of this work are comparable with previous calculations for scavenging of large particles and in good agreement with the experimental results of Sparmacher et al. (1993) for submicron particles. Finally, the impact of selective scavenging of various parts of the aerosol spectrum results in a strong dependence of the 0.5-folding time due to BCS, defined as  $\tau = \ln(2)/L(d_p)$ , on aerosol diameter (Fig. 9). Thus, for  $R \sim 1 \text{ mm hr}^{-1}$ ,  $\tau$  is of the order of 1 hour for very small and coarse particles and it becomes of the order of days or larger for particles in the accumulation mode. Results suggests that values of  $L_m$  calculated using three aerosol modes are appropriate only for short time after beginning of precipitation, and then gradually as the large particles are depleted,  $L_m$  tends to values characteristic to accumulation mode.

## 4. Conclusions

We estimated the below-cloud scavenging (BCS) coefficients of aerosols by rainfall for several observed aerosol size distributions reported from field experiments. The method employed is based on explicit calculations of the efficiency of collision between a raindrop and aerosol particles. Results show that BCS coefficient depends mainly on the aerosol size distribution parameters and on rainfall intensity. We found that:

- (a) For a given aerosol size, the BCS coefficient varies about two orders of magnitude for a variation of rainfall rate between 0.01 and 100 mm hr<sup>-1</sup>. For a given rainfall rate, BCS coefficient varies significantly with aerosol diameter.
- (b) The BCS is effective for very small particles (with diameters less than 0.01 μm) and for coarse particles (with diameters larger than 2 μm). For these cases, BCS has values comparable with in-cloud scavenging coefficients. For rainfall rate  $R \sim 1$  mm hr<sup>-1</sup>, the 0.5-folding time of these particles due to BCS is of the order of one hour. This suggests that for a model description of detailed rapid changes in aerosol size distribution in the BL, it is necessary to use bin defined BCS coefficients,  $L(d_p)$ , and high frequency values of rainfall rate. The presented results show that the BL aerosol size distribution with coarse mode is affected by BCS very shortly after rain starts (in a fraction of one hour). After the removal of very small and coarse particles, the below-cloud aerosol size distribution is dominated by particles in the accumulation mode.
- (c) For low and moderate rainfall rates ( $R \sim 0.1$ –10 mm hr<sup>-1</sup>), the BCS is negligible for particles in the range [0.1–1] μm in comparison with in-cloud scavenging. For very intense precipitation ( $R \sim 100$  mm hr<sup>-1</sup>), BCS of these particles becomes significant. The results of this work have practical significance for modeling rapid changes of aerosol size distribution in the BL as in the cases of field experiments with continuous high frequency measurements of aerosol size spectrum. Thus, in case of precipitation in the measurement domain, the BCS can contribute sub-

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stantially to the removal of fine particles (produced by nucleation events, for example) and coarse particles (such as dust and sea-salt aerosols). Another possible application of this work is in the evaluation and assessment of the efficiency of artificial removal of particles produced during accidental pollution events near the ground. In absence of precipitation, the artificial spraying water drops over the contaminated area can substantially remove particles from the atmosphere and can minimize the amount of material that will be long-range transported by advection.

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**Table 1.** Log-normal size distribution parameters for cases with coarse mode

$N_1$ ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )	$N_2$ ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )	$N_3$ ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )	$d_{p1}$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$d_{p2}$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$d_{p3}$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$\sigma_1$	$\sigma_2$	$\sigma_3$	Notes
3200	2900	0.300	0.020	0.116	1.800	145	1.65	2.39	(a) remote cont.
6650	147	1990	0.015	0.054	0.084	1.67	3.60	1.84	(a) rural
133	66.6	3.1	0.080	0.266	0.580	4.53	1.62	2.48	(a) marine
9900	1110	3640	0.013	0.014	0.050	1.75	4.64	2.17	(a) urban
129	59.7	63.5	0.007	0.250	0.520	4.41	1.79	2.66	(a) free trop.
21.7	0.186	$3 \times 10^{-4}$	0.138	0.750	8.600	1.75	1.99	1.95	(a) polar
726	114	0.178	0.002	0.038	21.60	1.76	5.88	2.74	(a) desert
70	3	0.05	0.200	2.000	12.00	1.90	2.00	3.00	(b) marine
210	74	15	0.033	0.110	0.540	1.40	1.41	2.02	(c) marine
33	200	20	0.020	0.090	0.550	1.40	1.60	2.50	(d) dust layer

(a) Compiled size distributions for several aerosol types (Jaenicke, 1993);

(b) Marine aerosol measurements in North East Atlantic MBL under surface wind speed of  $17 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (O'Dowd et al., 1997);

(c) Marine aerosol measured in South Pacific MBL during ACE 1 (Bates et al., 1998);

(d) Dust layer sampled at 2.7 km altitude over North Atlantic during ACE 2 (de Reus et al., 2000)

**Table 2.** Log-normal size distribution parameters for selected cases of submicron aerosol measurements

$N_1$ ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )	$N_2$ ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )	$d_{p1}$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$d_{p2}$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$\sigma_1$	$\sigma_2$	Notes
319	349	0.066	0.120	1.38	2.00	(a) MBL-I mixed
447	325	0.065	0.217	1.41	1.38	(a) MBL-II mixed
321	207	0.052	0.209	1.47	1.35	(a) MBL-III clean
228	249	0.052	0.178	1.40	1.34	(a) MBL-IV clean
140	120	0.065	0.220	1.47	1.31	(b) 22APR93
280	187	0.055	0.185	1.35	1.42	(b) 5DEC93
1640	40	0.012	0.140	1.72	1.36	(b) 7APR93
285	80	0.030	0.165	1.47	1.33	(b) 11APR93
370	215	0.032	0.120	2.07	1.83	(c) clear sky
518	274	0.042	0.152	1.94	1.65	(c) light
454	303	0.038	0.134	1.72	1.69	(c) moderate
413	259	0.040	0.137	1.68	1.70	(c) dense
312	318	0.042	0.125	1.54	1.77	(c) very dense

(a) Marine aerosol measured in North Atlantic MBL (mixed refers to MBL air mixed with FT air, and clean refers to air that stayed predominantly in the MBL without contamination from FT or continental air) (Raes et al., 1997);

(b) Cases of marine aerosol measured in mid-Pacific MBL (Covert et al., 1996);

(c) Alpine aerosol measured at Jungfraujoch, Switzerland under various cloudiness conditions (Weingartner et al., 1999).

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**Table 3.** Summary of below-cloud scavenging coefficient (in units of  $\text{hr}^{-1}$ ) expressed as  $aR^b$  (where the rainfall rate  $R$  is in units of  $\text{mm hr}^{-1}$ )

a	b	Reference	Note
Cases with coarse aerosol mode			
0.24	0.70	This work	(a) Urban
0.46	0.70	"	(a) Remote cont.
0.50	0.70	"	(a) Marine
0.45	0.70	"	(a) Rural
0.68	0.70	"	(a) Free trop.
0.34	0.70	"	(a) Polar
0.88	0.70	"	(a) Desert
0.80	0.70	"	(b) Marine
0.30	0.70	"	(c) Marine
0.70	0.70	"	(d) Dust layer
0.36	0.67–0.76	Okita et al. (1996)	(e)
1.26	0.78	Scott (1982)	(f)
Cases with predominant submicron particles			
$0.84 \times 10^{-3}$	0.59	Sparmacher et al. (1993)	(g) ( $d_p = 0.23 \mu\text{m}$ )
$1.13 \times 10^{-3}$	0.60	Sparmacher et al. (1993)	(g) ( $d_p = 0.46 \mu\text{m}$ )
$0.92 \times 10^{-3}$	0.94	Sparmacher et al. (1993)	(g) ( $d_p = 0.98 \mu\text{m}$ )
$0.62 \times 10^{-3}$	0.61	Sparmacher et al. (1993)	(g) ( $d_p = 2.16 \mu\text{m}$ )
$2.50 \times 10^{-2}$	0.92	Jylha (1999)	(h) Radionuclides
$0.85\text{--}5.00 \times 10^{-3}$	0.59–0.61	This work	(i) Marine
$0.10\text{--}0.14 \times 10^{-3}$	0.59	"	(j) Marine
$0.86 \times 10^{-3}$	0.59	"	(k) Alpine

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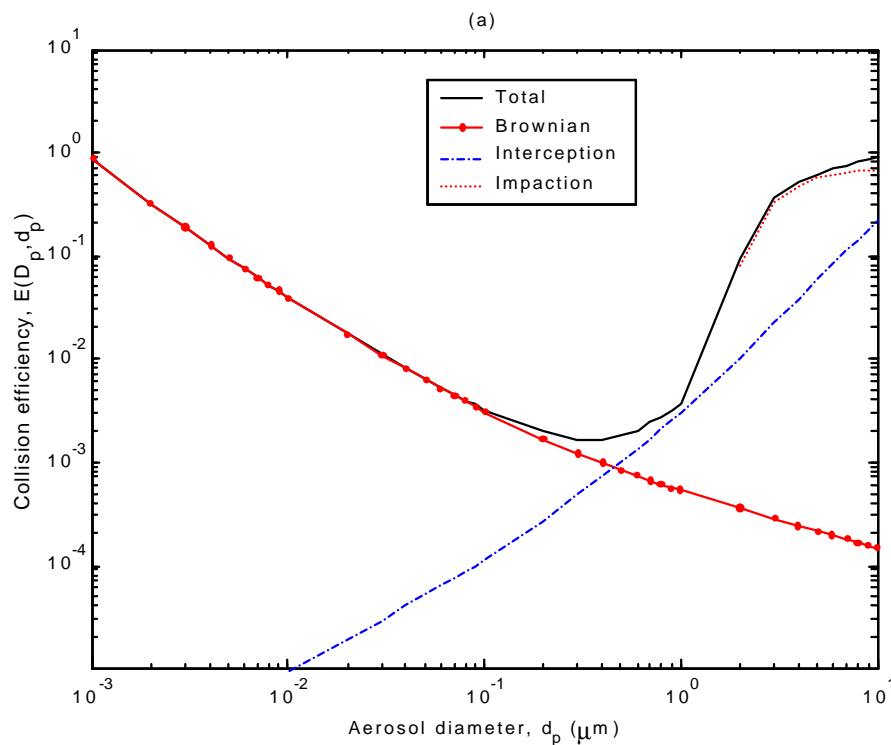
**Table 3.** Continued ...

(a) Calculations are based on the aerosol types by Jaenicke (1993); (b) Calculations are for marine aerosol data based on O'Dowd et al. (1997); (c) Calculations are for marine aerosol data from Bates et al. (1998); (d) Calculations are for the dust layer aerosol data from de Reus et al. (2000); (e) Experimental estimation for total wet scavenging by Okita et al. (1996); (f) Model calculated in-cloud scavenging coefficient for aerosol particles grown at the size of cloud droplet with  $d_p = 10 \mu\text{m}$  particle (see text for details); (g) Experimental values by Sparmacher et al. (1993) for four diameters of aerosol particle collected by rain; (h) Model calculated values for particles with diameters in the range  $[0.3\text{--}0.9] \mu\text{m}$  and assumed  $E = 0.02$  (Jylha, 1999); (i) Calculations based on submicron marine aerosol from Raes et al. (1993); Calculations based on submicron marine aerosol from Covert et al. (1996); Calculations based on alpine submicron aerosol from Weingartner et al. (1999).

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**Fig. 1a.** Contributions to the collision efficiency,  $E$ , between a raindrop of diameter  $D_p = 0.1$  mm and an aerosol particle of diameter  $d_p$ : Total (black solid line), Brownian (red solid line with dots), Interception (blue dashed line), and Impaction (red dotted line).

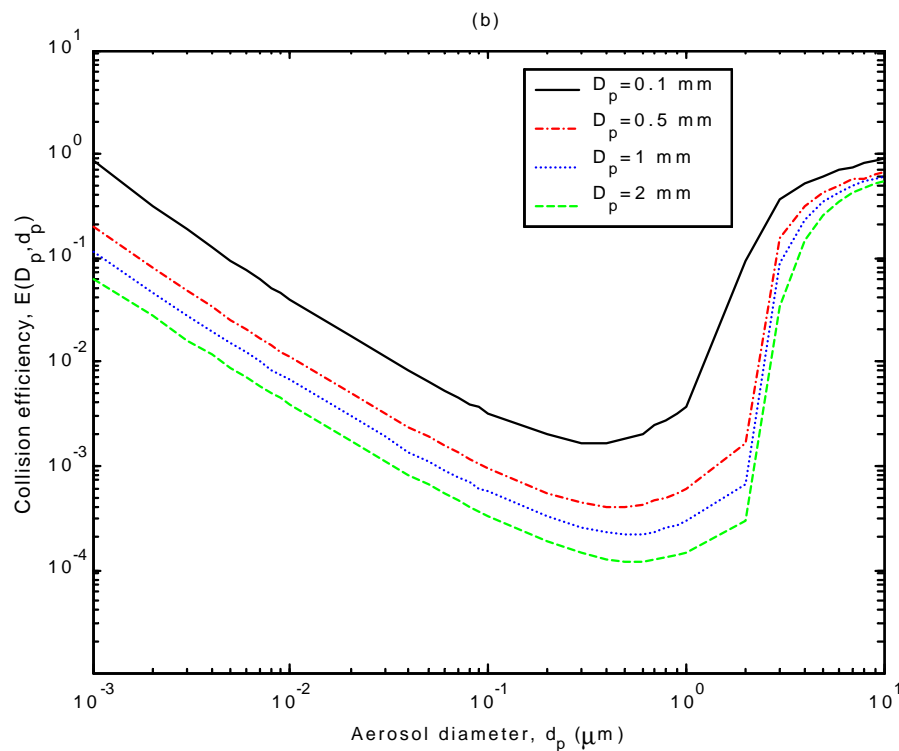
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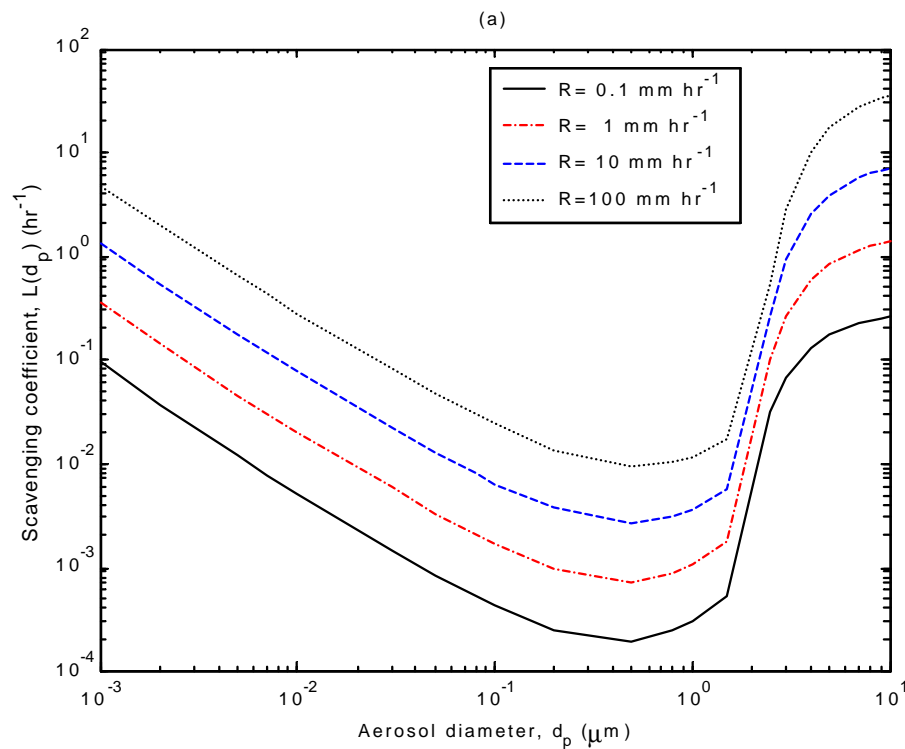
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**Fig. 1b.** Collision efficiency versus aerosol diameter for several raindrop diameters.[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

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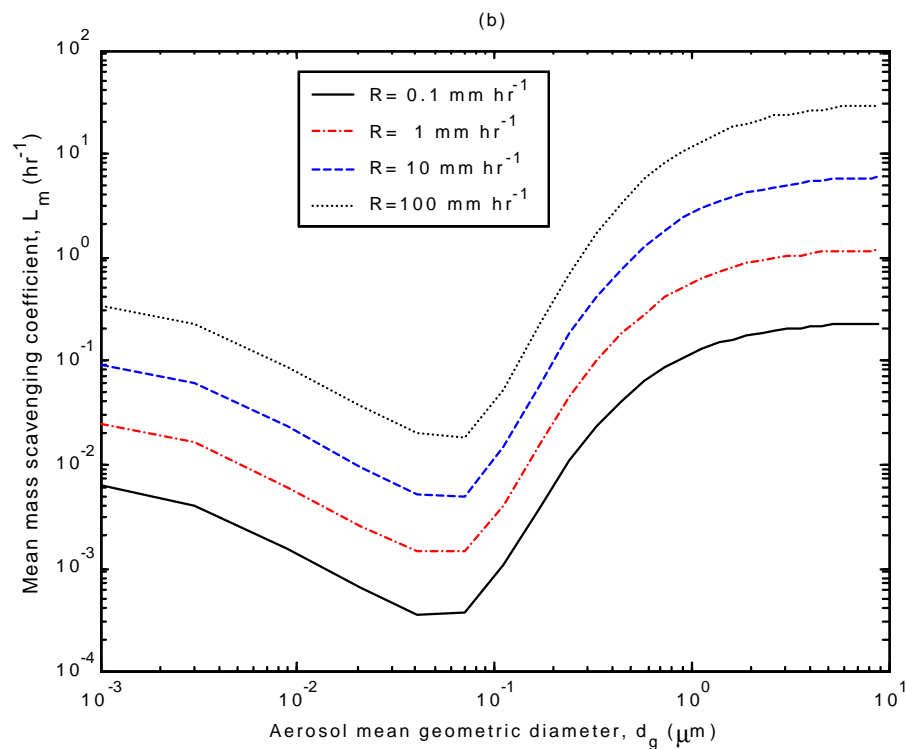
**Fig. 2a.** Mass scavenging coefficient  $L(d_p)$  for aerosol of diameter  $d_p$  scavenged by precipitation with a rainfall rate  $R$ .

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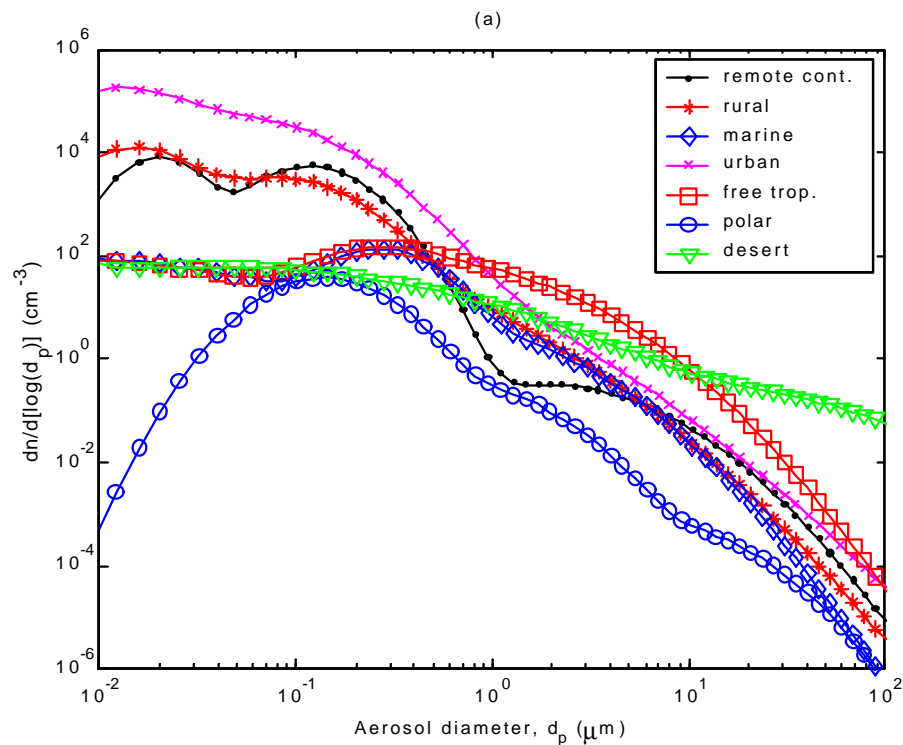
**Fig. 2b.** Mean mass scavenging coefficient,  $L_m$ , versus the aerosol geometric mean diameter ( $d_g$ ) for several rainfall intensities. (Calculations are for one log-normal mode of aerosol size distribution with  $\sigma_g = 2$ ).

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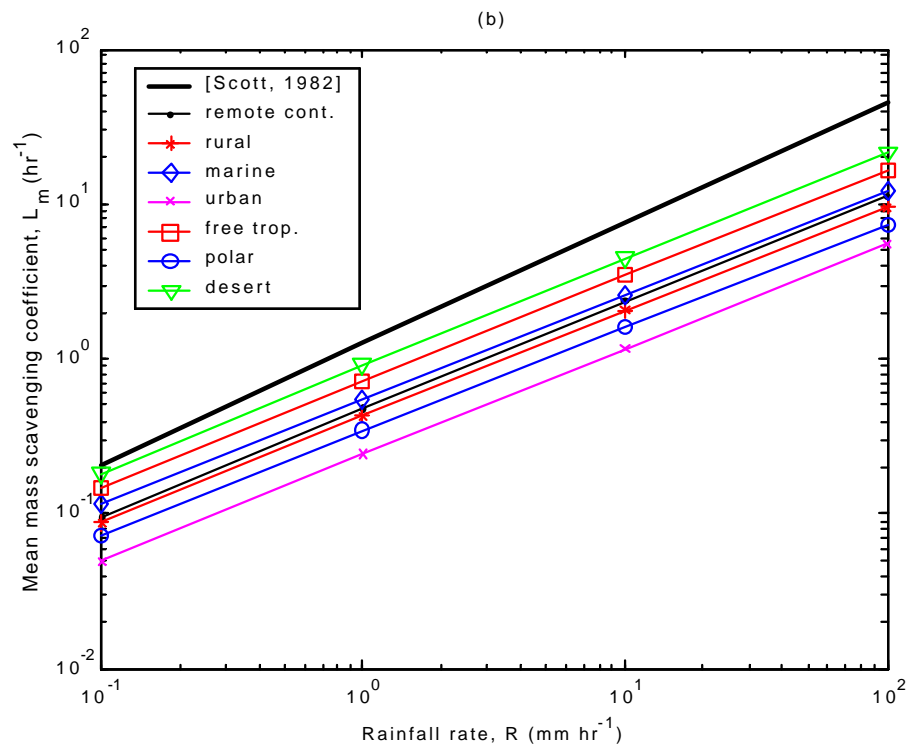
**Fig. 3a.** Log-normal aerosol size distribution for several aerosol types: remote continental, rural, marine, urban, free troposphere, polar and desert, as compiled from observations (Jaenicke, 1993).

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**Fig. 3b.** Calculated mean mass scavenging coefficient,  $L_m$ , for these aerosol types versus rainfall rate,  $R$ . The solid black line represents the calculated ICS coefficient based on the method described by Scott (1982) (see text for details).

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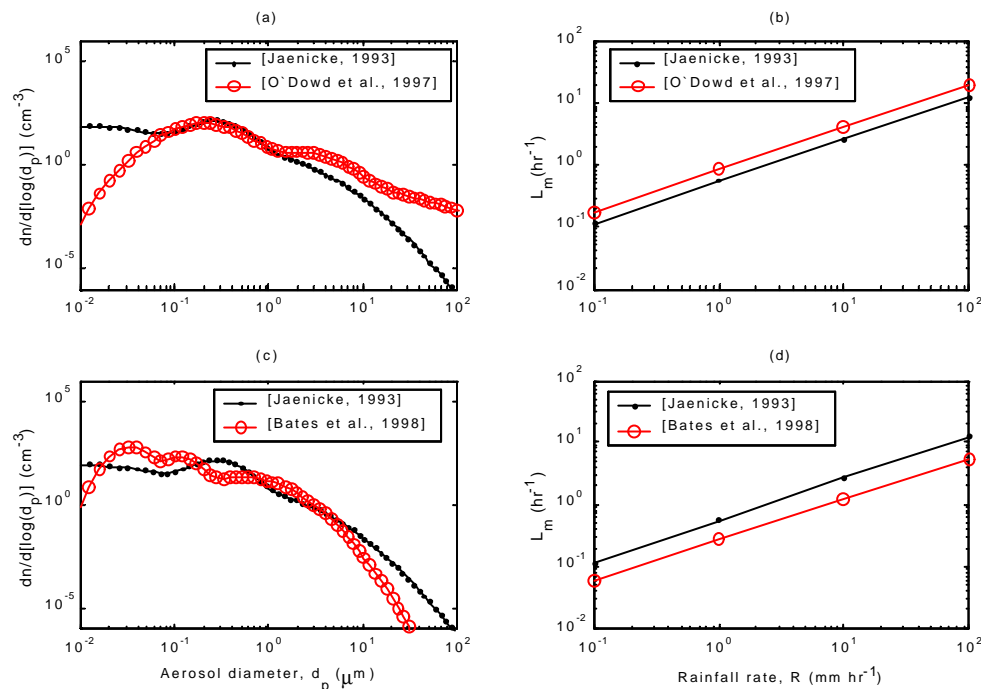
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**Fig. 4.** (a) Marine aerosol size distribution measured in Northeast Atlantic (O'Dowd et al., 1997), (b) the corresponding mean mass scavenging coefficient; (c) Marine aerosol size distribution measured in South Pacific (Bates et al., 1998) and (d) the corresponding mean mass scavenging coefficient. In all figures, the black curves refer to the marine aerosol from Jaenicke (1993) data, shown for comparison.

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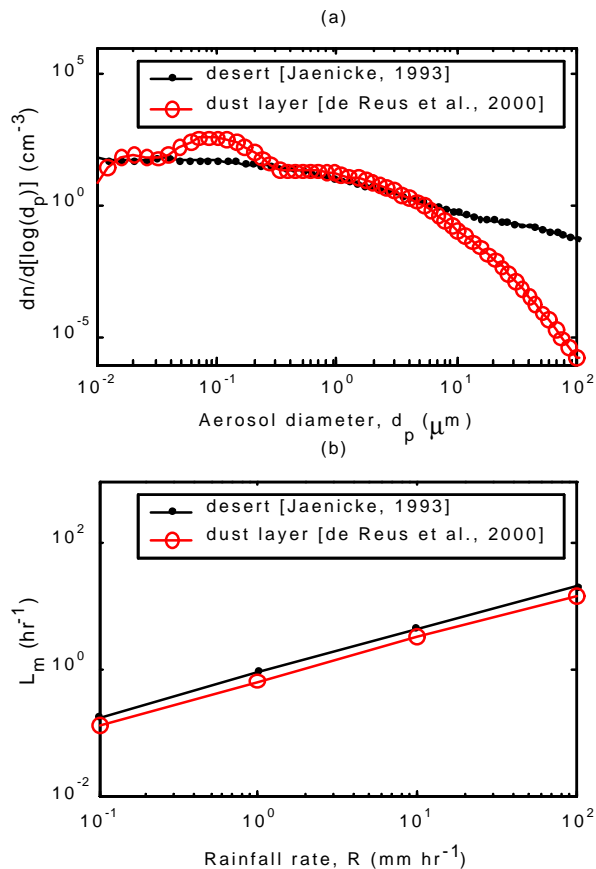
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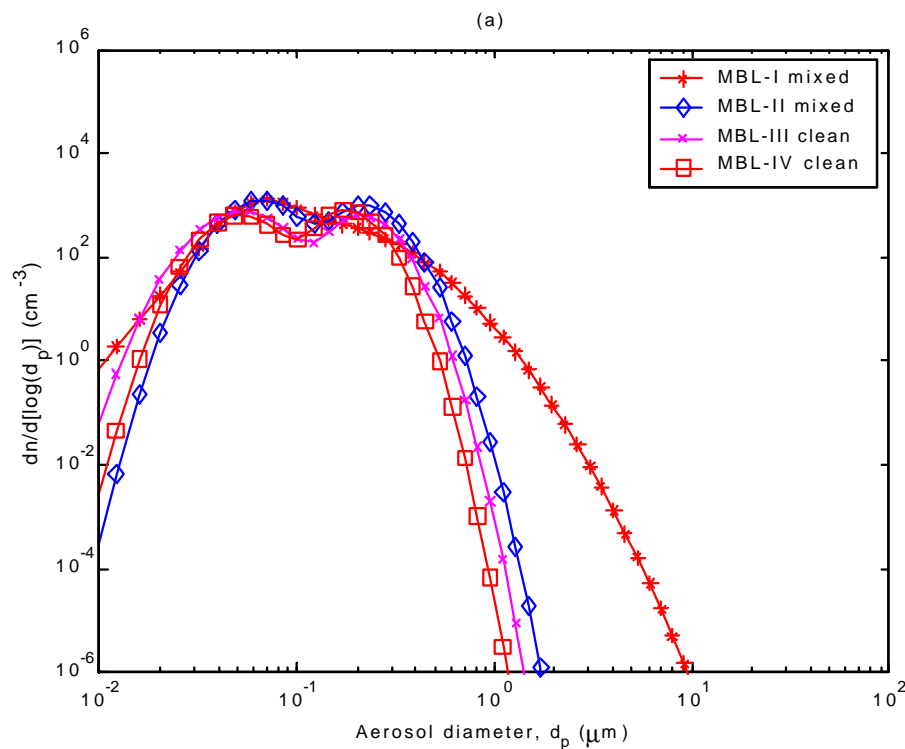


**Fig. 5. (a)** Aerosol size distribution of a dust layer measured over the North Atlantic Ocean on 8 July 1997 during ACE 2 (de Reus et al., 2000), **(b)** the corresponding calculated mean mass scavenging coefficient,  $L_m$ . The solid lines correspond to the desert aerosol type from Jaenicke (1993) shown for comparison.

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**Fig. 6a.** Marine boundary layer aerosol size distribution observed in North Atlantic during July, 1994 at Tenerife, Canary Islands (Raes et al., 1997) (mixed cases refer to MBL aerosol mixed with FT aerosol; clean cases refer to aerosol that stayed predominantly in the MBL unperturbed by FT or continental sources).

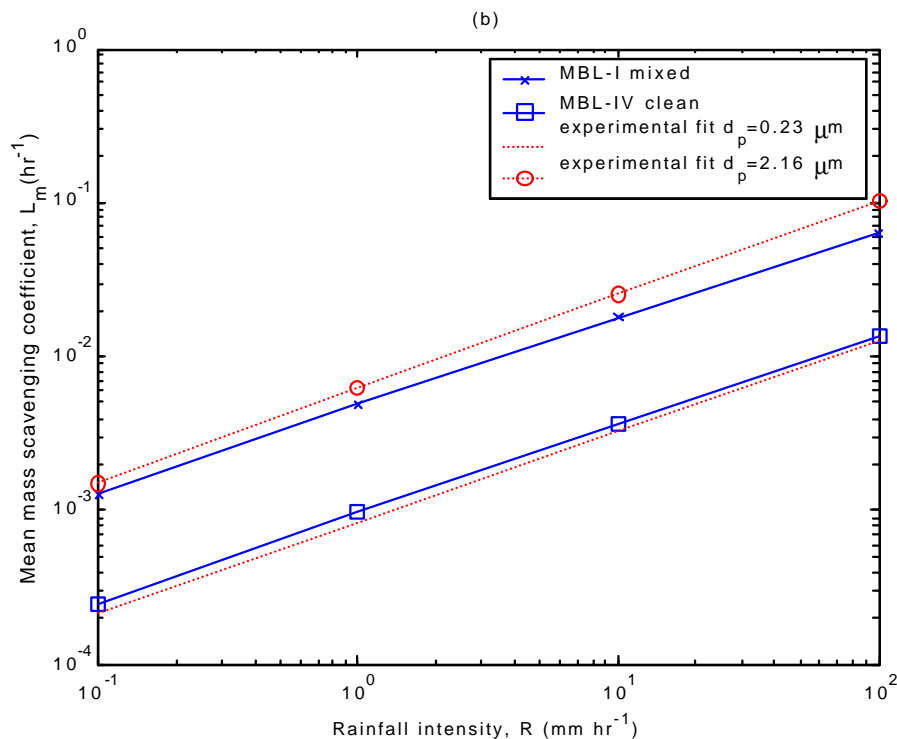
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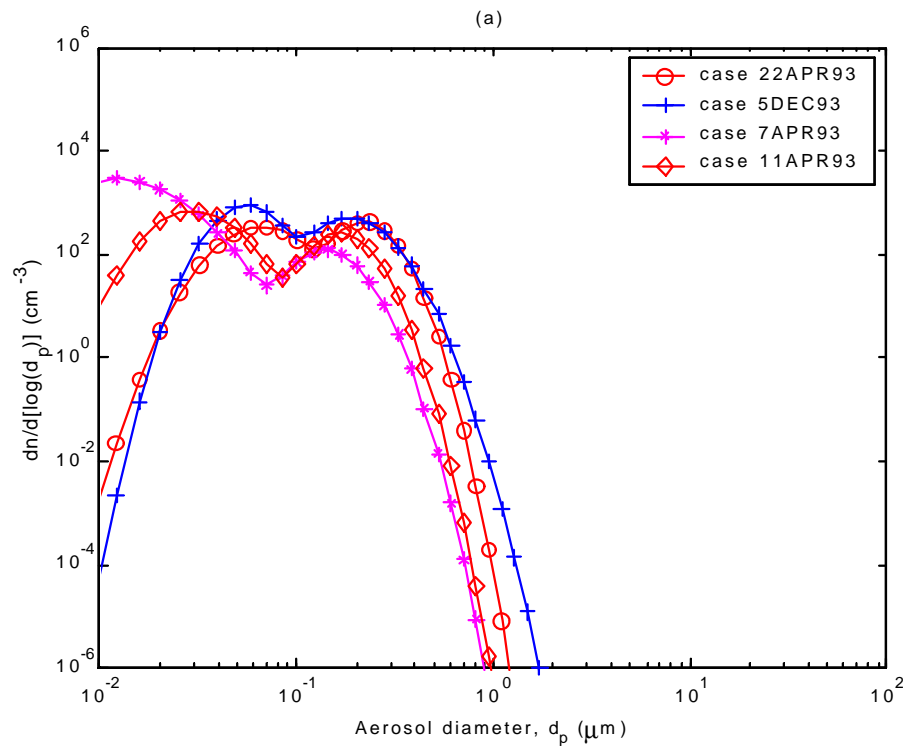
**Fig. 6b.** Corresponding mean mass scavenging coefficient,  $L_m$  for a mixed and a clean case. The dotted lines are experimental values of  $L_m$  for particles with diameters  $d_p = 0.23 \mu\text{m}$  (red dotted line) and  $d_p = 2.16 \mu\text{m}$  (red dotted line with circle) (Sparmacher et al., 1993).

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**Fig. 7a.** Several cases of marine boundary layer aerosol size distribution observed in mid-Pacific during 1992 and 1993 (Covert et al., 1996)

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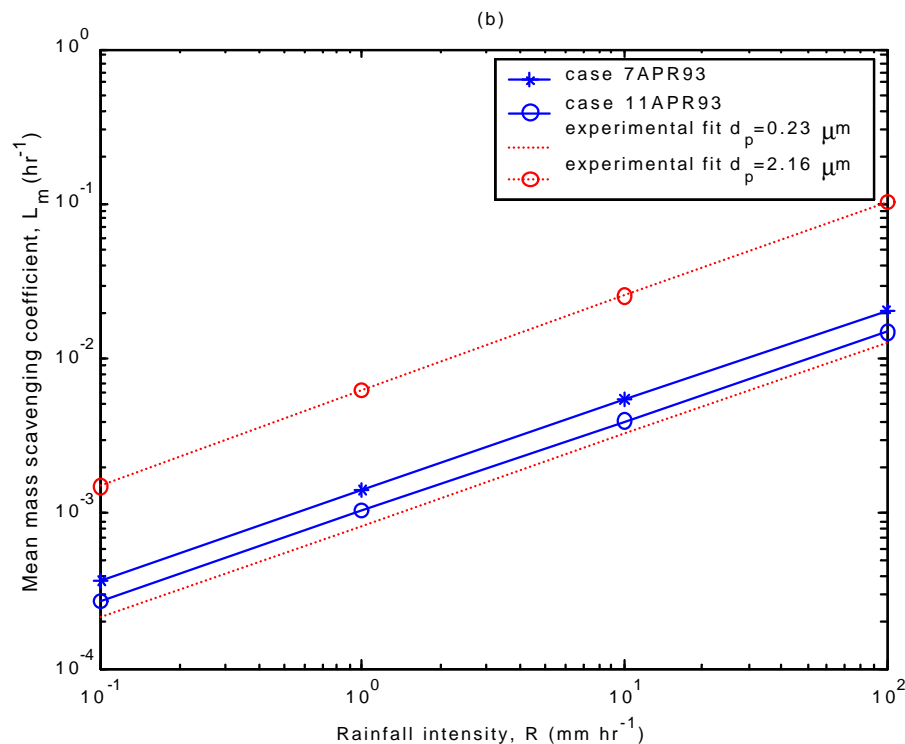
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**Fig. 7b.** Corresponding mean mass scavenging coefficient,  $L_m$  for two typical cases. The dotted lines are experimental values of  $L_m$  for particles with diameters  $d_p = 0.23 \mu\text{m}$  (red dotted line) and  $d_p = 2.16 \mu\text{m}$  (red dotted line with circle) (Sparmacher et al., 1993).

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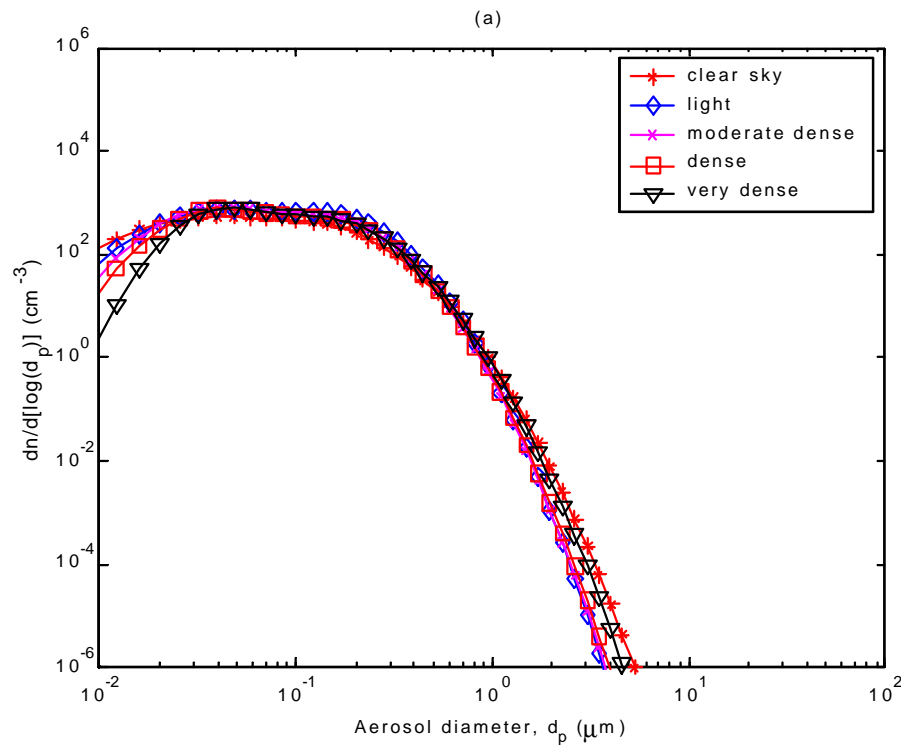
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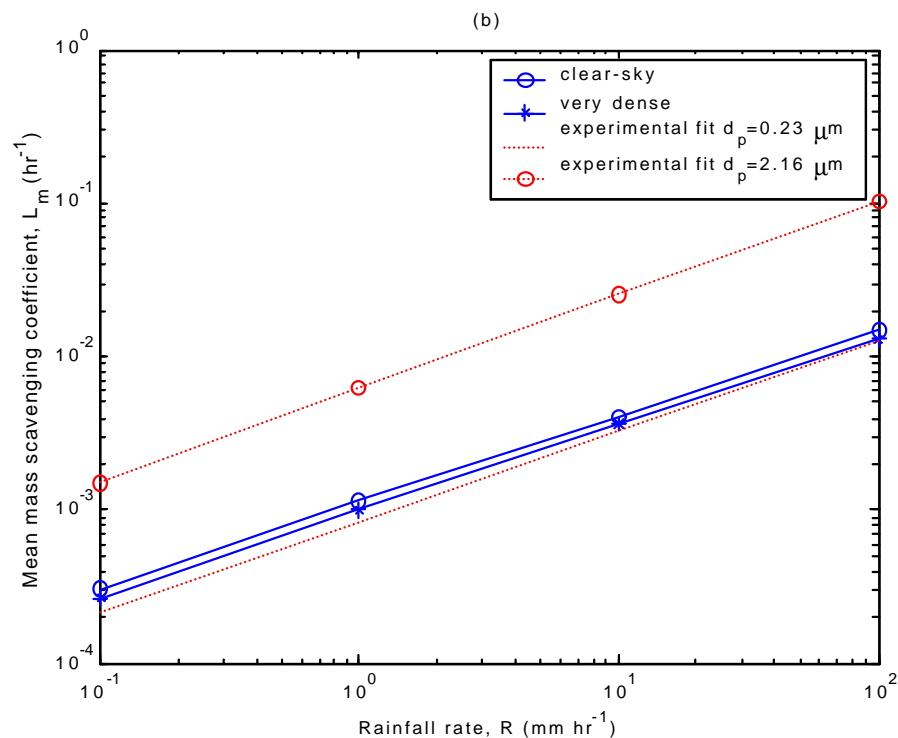
**Fig. 8a.** Alpine aerosol measurements during 1997–1998 at Jungfraujoch (3500 m asl) Switzerland for different cloudiness conditions (Weingartner et al., 1999).

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**Fig. 8b.** Corresponding mean mass scavenging coefficient,  $L_m$  for two typical cases. The dotted lines are experimental values of  $L_m$  for particles with diameters  $d_p = 0.23 \mu\text{m}$  (red dotted line) and  $d_p = 2.16 \mu\text{m}$  (red dotted line with circle) (Sparmacher et al., 1993).

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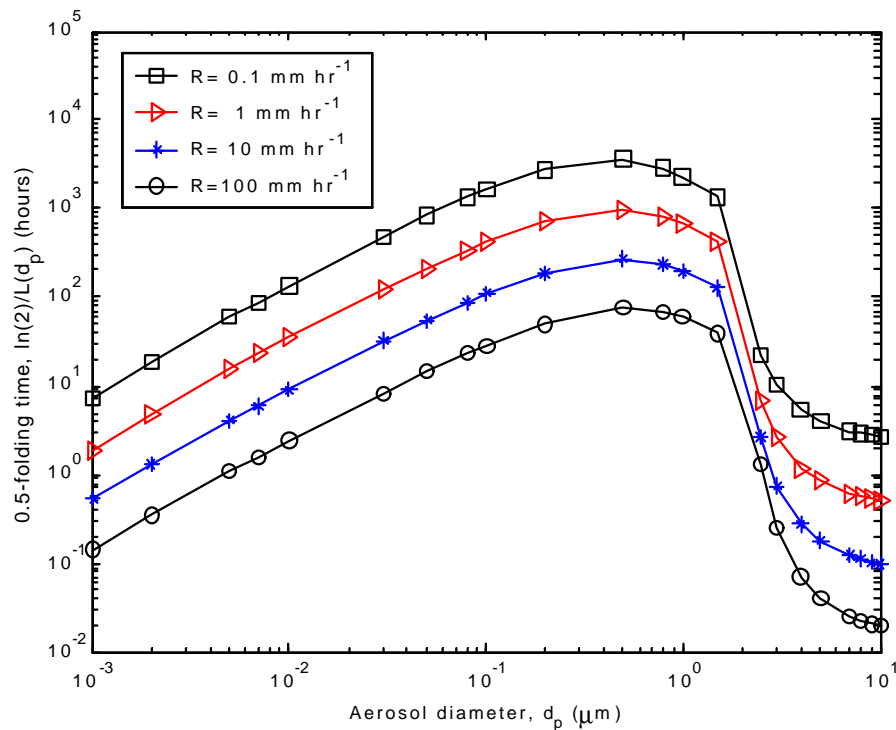
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**Fig. 9.** Aerosol 0.5-folding time due to below-cloud scavenging process only, versus aerosol particle diameter.

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